

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

24. (New). An apparatus comprising:

a controller, to generate, before controller initialization during boot, reset, or other pre-configuration state of the apparatus,

an unencoded chip select word in response to a default unencoded chip select mode,  
an encoded chip select word in response to a default encoded chip select mode; and  
wherein the encoded chip select word and the unencoded chip select word select the same boot device.

25. (New). The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the controller comprises a memory controller to generate the encoded chip select word and the unencoded chip select word.

26. (New). The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the memory controller comprises an address decoder to generate the encoded chip select word and the unencoded chip select word.

27. (New). The apparatus of claim 24, wherein controller initialization comprises configuration of the controller to operate in an encoded chip select mode or in an unencoded chip select mode.

28. (New). The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the controller comprises a configuration store to store configuration data to configure the controller to operate in an encoded chip select mode or in an unencoded chip select mode.

29. (New). The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the selected boot device comprises a memory device.

30. (New). The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the unencoded chip select word comprises a first bit pattern and the encoded chip select word comprises a second bit pattern and the first bit pattern includes the second bit pattern.

31. (New). The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the lowest order bits of the first bit pattern include the second bit pattern.

32. (New). The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the controller to generate the encoded chip select word and the unencoded chip select word in response to an address for a boot code nub and the selected boot device comprises the boot code nub.

33. (New). The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the controller,  
to generate the unencoded chip select word for the address such that the unencoded chip select word comprises exactly one active chip select bit that corresponds to a predetermined chip-select line used to select the boot device; and

the controller to generate the encoded chip select word for the address such that the encoded chip select word comprises exactly one active chip select bit that corresponds to the predetermined chip-select line.

34. (New). The apparatus of claim 33, wherein,

the one active chip select bit of the unencoded chip select word is a lowest order bit of the unencoded chip select word; and

the one active chip select bit of the encoded chip select word is a lowest order bit of the encoded chip select word.

35. (New). The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the encoded chip select word is generated according to an encoding scheme to assign numbers to the boot devices, the numbers to range from one to a number greater than one.

36. (New). The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the encoded chip select word is to encode the number one.

37. (New). The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the controller, in response to an address for a boot code nub that does not map to the boot device, converts the address to an address that does map to the boot device.

38. (New) A system comprising:

a plurality of devices comprising a device storing a boot code nub, and

an apparatus to generate, in response to an address for the boot code nub and during boot, reset, or other pre-configuration state of the apparatus, a chip select word that,

if the apparatus is in a default unencoded chip select mode, results in selection of the device storing the boot code nub, and

if the apparatus is in a default encoded chip select mode, results in selection of the device storing the boot code nub.

39. (New) The system of claim 38 wherein

the device storing the boot code nub is coupled to the apparatus via a predetermined chip select line,

each of the other devices of the plurality of devices is coupled to the apparatus via a separate chip select line; and

wherein the apparatus activates the predetermined chip select line coupled to the device storing the boot code nub, regardless of whether the chip select word is encoded or unencoded.

40. (New) The system of claim 38 further comprising a chip select decoder coupled to the apparatus and coupled to each of the devices of the plurality of devices via a separate chip select line, wherein,

the chip decoder activates the chip select line of the device with the boot code nub in response to receiving the chip select word, regardless of whether the chip select word is encoded or unencoded.

41. (New) A method comprising:

generating on an apparatus, in response to an address for the boot code nub and during boot, reset, or other pre-configuration state of the apparatus, a chip select word that,

if the apparatus is in a default unencoded chip select mode, results in selection of a boot device storing the boot code nub, and

if the apparatus is in a default encoded chip select mode, results in selection of a boot device storing the boot code nub.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, further comprising

executing the boot code nub, and

in response to executing the boot code nub, updating one of the default unencoded chip select mode and the default encoded chip select mode to one of an unencoded chip select mode and an encoded chip select mode.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein generating the chip select word comprises one of,

generating the chip select word as an unencoded chip select word such that the unencoded chip select word comprises one active bit that corresponds to a predetermined chip select line used to select the boot device storing the boot code nub; and

generating the chip select word as an encoded chip select word such that the encoded chip select word comprises one active bit that corresponds to a predetermined chip select line used to select the boot device storing the boot code nub.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein

the one active bit of the unencoded chip select word is the lowest order bit of the unencoded chip select word; and

the one active bit of the encoded chip select word is the lowest order bit of the encoded chip select word.

45. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein generating the chip select word comprises generating the chip select word as an encoded chip selected word according to an encoding scheme that assigns numbers to the boot devices, the numbers ranging in magnitude from one to a number greater than one.

46. (New) the method of claim 45, wherein the encoded chip select word encodes the number one.

47. (New) A machine readable physical storage medium comprising a plurality of instructions that, in response to being executed result, in an apparatus

generating, in response to an address for the boot code nub and during boot, reset, or other pre-configuration state of the apparatus, a chip select word that,

if the apparatus is in a default unencoded chip select mode, results in selection of a boot device storing the boot code nub, and

if the apparatus is in a default encoded chip select mode, results in selection of a boot device storing the boot code nub.

48. (New) The machine readable physical storage medium of claim 47 wherein generating the chip select word comprises one of,

generating the chip select word as an unencoded chip select word such that the unencoded chip select word comprises one active bit that corresponds to a predetermined chip select line used to select the boot device storing the boot code nub; and

generating the chip select word as an encoded chip select word such that the encoded chip select word comprises one active bit that corresponds to a predetermined chip select line used to select the boot device storing the boot code nub.

49. (New) The machine readable physical storage medium of claim 47 wherein

the one active bit of the unencoded chip select word is the lowest order bit of the unencoded chip select word; and

the one active bit of the encoded chip select word is the lowest order bit of the unencoded chip select word.